



JANUARY 2012 - NEWSLETTER

New installation at KROMCO



Basil Smit of Kromco,
a happy customer

After an order was placed in August 2011, Barpro supplied and installed four additional mobiles at Kromco, identical to the 8 mobiles that were installed in 1998. Each mobile is 10 bays of three pallets long and four pallets in the height. The pallets are up to 2450mms high and weigh just over 1000kgs. The STORAX system, although individual control, has aisle light switching. Yellow pallet support bars were supplied by Universal Storage Systems for every pallet position. Both the manager Basil Smit and foreman Lionel Booyens were happy with the new installation. "Although the delivery schedule was tight", said Basil, "the Storax system was installed on time".

If you'd like to find out how STORAX mobile racking could assist your operation please call James Cunningham phone 021 552 9190 cell 083 658 6455 or email james@barpro.co.za

Q: Why do you leave the coldroom door open?

Barpro Basics

A: On a recent trip to the UK, James was able to visit the Grocontinental Distribution centre in Whitchurch, Shropshire, where he saw the new Eiger door. In South Africa, doors are still designed primarily as a security measure while in the UK the primary objective is to prevent the ingress of warm moist air. The first difference with the Eiger door is size. It has been designed for stand-on powered pallet jacks, not, as in SA, for reach trucks with 4.5m masts. In the UK, reach trucks have their own door which is only used to allow access to the battery bays and maintenance areas. Smaller openings for moving pallets result in less moisture getting in. The Eiger door has a double skinned vertical canvas "blade". The blade opens rapidly when the pallet jack crosses a magnetised loop in the floor and closes on a timer. The Eiger door isn't just a high speed door, as warm dry air from a dehumidifier also circulates through the centre of the blade, side columns and top hood. This prevents ice build-up. While air driers do consume electricity themselves, European cold stores have long understood that this energy cost is far less than frequent evaporator defrosts. The facilities manager at Grocontinental, Paul Wood, felt that the lack of ice almost justified the Eiger door on health and safety considerations alone. Being still at what I call the "paperwork stage" of health and safety in South Africa, the potential safety risks of doorway ice still are not taken seriously and it is relatively common to see large chunks being removed from doorways using crowbars. This causes small cracks in the floor which moisture penetrates and then enlarges on freezing. From a maintenance perspective, the mobile bases closest to an unprotected doorway will often require the



An Eiger door with a dehumidifier above.

most attention. Some of the moisture in the incoming air sticks to the floor as ice. The wheels on the mobile bases slip on the iced rails as the co-efficient of friction is reduced. Motors burn out, and forklifts are sometimes used to help the base along with predictable results. So the presence of mobiles is just another reason to ensure that the minimum moist air is allowed to enter a freezer room.

For more information please contact James Cunningham james@barpro.co.za 021 552 - 9190 or 083 658 6455

Barpro Blog

This space is becoming too small to say everything we'd like to. We've launched a blog so that we can chat to you more often and in greater detail.

Go to www.barpro.wordpress.com
and join the conversation.

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